



## COVID-19 Response Update March 23, 2020

Dear Friends,

The past couple weeks have been a remarkable time. As the situation grows more uncertain, we remain committed to providing basic needs and weekend meals services to those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. We made the decision late last week, and announced yesterday on social media, that we are changing the weekday service times to operate from 9 am to 2 pm. With our new flow of services implemented last week, limiting the number of people utilizing and awaiting services in the lobby to 10 people, we recognized that services naturally wrapped up by 2 pm.

Our services are considered essential services by Wake County, so we plan to continue operating as long as we have the staffing capacity and can safely and reasonably do so. We will continue to shorten service hours as necessary to match our staffing capacity.

These updated weekday hours will allow us to shift our focus to preparing for our new Weekend Meals Program schedule. Beginning Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, we will provide all three meals to each guest from 11 am to 12 pm in order to limit the time our guests are in large crowds and allow for safe social distancing. This has been a hard decision for our team because our Weekend Meals Program has always been about community and providing a space to come together on Saturdays and Sundays. However, the health and safety of our guests, volunteers, and staff are our top priorities.

We are also preparing for the likelihood that all meals will need to be made up solely of nonperishable items. Because of this, we are now requesting more nonperishable food donations so that we are prepared to convert all meals to only nonperishable items, if and when it becomes necessary (please see our needed items below). Beginning Tuesday, we will have curbside drop-off donations to make it easy to donate food and supplies (please see our instructions below). If you prefer to make a financial contribution, please click [here](#).

Please feel free to share this message and our needed donation items with others in your network. We will put our needed items list out more broadly today through our website and social media channels. We served 805 meals this past weekend so our need remains great. Thank you in advance for your support and for the way you all have come together to make sure that our friends in need at Oak City Cares have the food and services that they need.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn Johnson", with a long, sweeping underline.

Kathryn Johnson, MS, LMFT  
Executive Director

## List of Food Supplies Needed

(all individually-sized for easy distribution)

- Pop-top cans (i.e. tuna or chicken)
- Beanee Weenee
- Potted meat
- Vienna sausage
- Spam
- Treet meat
- Deviled ham
- Chef Boyardee products
- Pop-top soup
- Pudding
- Jello cup
- Peanut butter
- Peanuts
- Slim Jims
- Crackers
- Cereal/breakfast bars
- Raisins
- Dried fruit snacks
- Trail mix
- Cheese & cracker packs
- Pop Tarts
- Bottled water

## List of Supplies Needed

- Brown paper lunch bags
- Napkins
- Individually-wrapped hand wipe packets
- Ziploc bags
- Grocery bags
- Serving gloves (latex-free & powder-free)
- Plastic to-go flatware
- Disinfecting wipes & spray

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## Curbside Donation Drop-off Instructions - Beginning Tuesday, March 24

If you are able to donate, we request that you drop off donations between 2:30 and 4:30 pm due to staffing capacity. Of course, if you are only available to donate before 2:30 pm, we gratefully accept. For curbside donation drop-off, please enter the gated parking lot immediately before our building on the left. Pull around the back of our center, and park in between both buildings next to our side patio. When you arrive, please call us at 919-812-5546, and we will help unload your donations.

